WE CLAIM:

1. A method of controlling an operation of a switched-reluctance motor including a stator having a stator pole and a rotor having a rotor pole, said method comprising the steps of:

aligning the rotor pole and the stator pole in response to a reception of an actuation command; and

cranking the rotor in a direction as dictated by the actuation command for a predetermined time period.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

rotating the rotor to a holding position upon an expiration of the predetermined time period.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

minimizing any current losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

minimizing any heating losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

5. A method for controlling an alignment of a stator pole and a rotor pole of a switched-reluctance motor, said method comprising:

identifying a first phase of the motor as a target phase defining an initial position of the rotor pole that corresponds to the alignment of the stator pole and the rotor pole;

exciting a second phase of the motor, the second phase adjacent the first phase; and

subsequently exciting the first phase of the motor.

6. A method for controlling an alignment of a rotor pole of a switched-reluctance motor to a target position, said method comprising:

identifying the target position;

aligning a phase of the motor adjacent the target position; and

subsequently and concurrently exciting a second phase of the motor and a third phase of the motor, the second phase and the third phase being remote from the target position.

7. A method for controlling a rotation of a rotor of a switched-reluctance motor in a desired direction, said method comprising:

sequentially exciting a plurality of phases of the switched-reluctance motor for one or more cycles whereby the rotor is cranked to rotate in the desired direction; and

rotating the rotor in the desired direction upon an expiration of the one or more cycles.

8. A method for controlling a minimization of any heat losses by a switched-reluctance motor having a rotor in a holding position, said method comprising:

determining the rotor is in the holding position; and

dithering the rotor upon the rotor being in the holding position for a predetermined time period.

9. A method for controlling a minimization of any current losses by a switched-reluctance motor having a rotor in a holding position, said method comprising:

determining a motor torque corresponding to the holding position; and

selectively reducing an ampere level of a phase current corresponding to the holding position.

10. A device for controlling an operation a switched-reluctance motor including a stator having a stator pole and a rotor having a rotor pole, said device comprising:

means for aligning the rotor pole and the stator pole in response to a reception of an actuation command; and

means for cranking the rotor in a direction as dictated by the actuation command for a predetermined time period.

11. The device of claim 10, further comprising:

means for rotating the rotor to a holding position upon an expiration of the predetermined time period.

12. The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for minimizing any current losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

13. The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for minimizing any heating losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

14. A device for controlling an alignment of a stator pole and a rotor pole of a switched-reluctance motor, said device comprising:

means for identifying a first phase of the motor as a target phase defining an initial position of the rotor pole that corresponds to the alignment of the stator pole and the rotor pole;

means for exciting a second phase of the motor, the second phase adjacent the first phase; and

means for subsequently exciting the first phase of the motor.

15. A device for controlling an alignment of a rotor pole of a switched-reluctance motor to a target position, said device comprising:

means for identifying the target position;

means for aligning a phase of the motor adjacent the target position; and

means subsequently and concurrently exciting a second phase of the motor and a third phase of the motor, the second phase and the third phase being remote from the target position.

16. A device for controlling a rotation of a rotor of a switched-reluctance motor in a desired direction, said device comprising:

means for sequentially exciting a plurality of phases of the switched-reluctance motor for one or more cycles whereby the rotor is cranked to rotate in the desired direction; and

means for rotating the rotor to the holding position upon an expiration of the one or more cycles.

17. A device for controlling a minimization of any heat losses by a switched-reluctance motor having a rotor in a holding position, said device comprising:

means for determining the rotor is in the holding position; and

means for dithering the rotor upon the rotor being in the holding position for a predetermined time period.

18. A device for controlling a minimization of any current losses by a switched-reluctance motor having a rotor in a holding position, said device comprising:

means for determining a motor torque corresponding to the holding position; and

means for selectively reducing an ampere level of a phase current corresponding to the holding position.

19. A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including

a stator having a stator pole, and

a rotor having a rotor pole;

means for aligning the rotor pole and the stator pole in response to a reception of an actuation command; and

means for cranking the rotor in a direction as dictated by the actuation command for a predetermined time period.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means for rotating the rotor to a holding position upon an expiration of the predetermined time period.

21. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for minimizing any current losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

22. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for minimizing any heating losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

23. A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including

a stator having a stator pole, and

a rotor having a rotor pole;

means for identifying a first phase of the motor as a target phase defining an initial position of the rotor pole that corresponds to the alignment of the stator pole and the rotor pole;

means for exciting a second phase of the motor, the second phase adjacent the first phase; and

means for subsequently exciting the first phase of the motor.

24. A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including a rotor having a rotor pole;

means for identifying a target position of said rotor pole;

means for aligning a phase of the motor adjacent the target position; and

means for subsequently and concurrently exciting a second phase of the motor and a third phase of the motor, the second phase and the third phase being remote from the target position.

25. A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including a rotor;

means for sequentially exciting a plurality of phases of the switched-reluctance motor for one or more cycles whereby the rotor is cranked to rotate in the desired direction; and

means for rotating the rotor to the holding position upon an expiration of the one or more cycles.

26. A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including a rotor operable to be rotated to a holding position;

means for determining the rotor is in the holding position; and

means for dithering the rotor upon the rotor being in the holding position for a predetermined time period.

27. A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including a rotor operable to be rotated to a holding position;

means for determining a motor torque corresponding to the holding position; and

means for selectively reducing an ampere level of a phase current corresponding to the holding position.